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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/709,939	06/08/2004	Pao-Ching Tseng	MTKP0163USA	3938

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NORTH AMERICA INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY CORPORATION
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EXAMINER
PHAN, DEAN

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2182

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	02/15/2007	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Notice of this Office communication was sent electronically on the above-indicated "Notification Date" and has a shortened statutory period for reply of 3 MONTHS from 02/15/2007.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

winstonhsu@naipo.com

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/709,939	Applicant(s) TSENG, PAO-CHING	
	Examiner Dean Phan	Art Unit 2182	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 June 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☐ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 08 June 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 9, a dependent claim of claim 6, cites "non-volatile storage device" which is not mentioned in the claim 6. For the purpose of examination, the Examiner consider claim 9 dependent to claim 8. Correction/Clarification is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claim 1-2, 5, 6-7, 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Chen et al. (U.S Pat# 6,993,618).

As to claim 1, Chen et al. teach an electronic apparatus (F.2 exchanger 38, abstract) comprising:

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a controller (F. 2 controller 30) having a serial AT Attachment (SATA) port (F.2 connector 12, c.8 l. 25-30), and being electrically coupled to a host (F. 2 PC host 12) through the SATA port (c.8 l. 25-30); and

a plurality of peripheral devices (F. 2 devices 22,26,32,36) electrically coupled to the controller using digital means (F. 2; *Bus between peripheral devices and controller 30*)

wherein the controller allows the host to access the peripheral devices through the SATA port (c. 4 l. 4-15).

As to claim 2, all limitations are in claim 1 with further: the controller operates as a port multiplier (F.2 port multiplier 38; *The multiplier 38 allows a single serial ATA controller to communicate with multiple devices*) to allow the host to access the peripheral devices through the SATA port.

As to claim 5, all limitations are in claim 1 with further the peripheral devices include a first peripheral device (F.2 flash memory 26) and a second peripheral device (F.2 flash memory 32), and the controller directly transfers data stored on the first peripheral device to the second peripheral device without buffering the data in the host (c. 2 l. 60-67).

As to claims 6, 7, 10, all the same elements of Claims 1, 2, 5 are listed, but in method form rather than system form. Therefore, the supporting rationale of the rejection to Claims 1, 2, 5 applies equally as well to Claims 6, 7, 10.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 3-4, 8-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chen et al. (U.S Pat# 6,993,618), in the view of Bissessur et al. (U.S Pub# 2004/0019713).

As to claim 3, Chen et al teach all limitations are in claim 1 wherein plurality of non-volatile storage device (F. 2 flash memory 26, c. 1 l. 17-21) electronically coupled to the SATA controller (F. 2 controller 30) but do not teach an optical storage device. However, in the same field of art, Bissessur et al. teach an apparatus wherein plurality of storage devices such as optical drive and hard drive electronically coupled to the controller (F. 2 SATA controller 54, p.23). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to combine the teachings of Chen et al. and Bissessur et al. in order to provide more storage with less expensive cost.

As to claim 4, all limitations are listed in claim 3 with further: a flashcard access device (F. 2 SD flashcard 32) or a hard-disk drive.

As to claim 8-9, all the same elements of Claims 3-4 are listed, but in method form rather than system form. Therefore, the supporting rationale of the rejection to Claims 3-4 applies equally as well to Claims 8-9.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dean Phan whose telephone number is (571) 270-1002. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Thu; 9:30AM - 5:00PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim Huynh can be reached on (571) 272-4147. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

DP



KIM HUYNH
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

2/9/07